

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELGRA 03311 241841Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 748

S E C R E T BELGRADE 3311

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FROM CHARGE'

EO 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR YO
SUBJ: OBSERVATIONS ON YUGOSLAV LEADERS

1. I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO RECORD A FEW OF MY
PERSONAL AND NOT VERY PROFOUND OBSERVATIONS ON RELATIONSHIP
AMONG THE FIVE TOP YUGOSLAV LEADERS WHO SAT IN ON MAY 21ST MEETING
AND ATTENDED LUNCH IN HONOR OF VP MONDALE.

2. TITO SEEMED IN EXCELLENT HEALTH AND REMARKABLY ACUTE
MENTALLY FOR A MAN APPROACHING HIS 85TH BIRTHDAY. HE WAS
VERY MUCH THE MASTER AND THE YUGOSLAVS AROUND HIM WERE
DEFERENTIAL ALMOST TO THE POINT OF SERVILITY. ALL EXCEPT
KARDELJ, THAT IS. WITH KARDELJ, TITO HAD A COLLEGIAL
RELATIONSHIP AND ONE THAT SUGGESTED DISTINCT PERSONAL
FRIENDSHIP. KARDELJ PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN THE CONVER-
SATIONS AND DID NOT HESITATE TO INTERVENE WHEN HE HAD
SOMETHING TO SAY. AT TIMES IT WAS HARD FOR ME TO
TELL WHEN TITO STOPPED TALKING AND KARDELJ BEGAN,
PARTICULARLY AT LUNCH.

3. MINIC WAS VERY MUCH THE DEFERENTIAL SUBORDINATE.
AT ONE POINT HE INTERVENED TO REMIND TITO THAT HE
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HAD FORGOTTEN TO MENTION NAMIBIA, WHEN TITO WAS DISCUSSING
AFRICAN HOT SPOTS OF CONFLICT. ON BOTH OF HIS OTHER
INTERVENTIONS MINIC FIRST ASKED TITO'S PERMISSION TO
SPEAK, USING THE FORMAL, POLITE FORM TO ADDRESS THE
PRESIDENT. TITO ALLOWED MINIC TO MAKE HIS POINT,
BUT DID NOT ENCOURAGE HIM TO ELABORATE ON IT. NOR
DID THERE SEEM TO BE MUCH PERSONAL WARMTH BETWEEN THE TWO.

4. DORONJSKI HAD THE TEMERITY AT ONE POINT TO BREAK IN WHEN KARDELJ WAS MAKING A POINT ABOUT MILITARY SALES. TITO WAS CURT WITH HIM ALMOST TO THE POINT OF RUDENESS. THAT SHUT HIM UP FOR THE REST OF THE MEETING, WHICH NO DOUBT CONTRIBUTED TO ITS SUCCESS.

5. PRIME MINISTER DJURANOVIC WAS SILENT THROUGHOUT. I DID NOT OBSERVE AN EXCHANGE OF ANY KIND BETWEEN HIM AND TITO. MUCH OF THE TIME, DJURANOVIC HAD A BEMUSED EXPRESSION, AS IF ASKING HIMSELF WHAT HE WAS DOING IN SUCH HIGH-POWERED COMPANY.
YORK

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